

A Brief History Of Senate Democrats' Still-Unseen FY2012 Budget

April 29, 2009 – The last time Senate Democrats, who control the chamber, pass a budget—799 days ago.

April 13, 2011 – [Chairman Conrad suggests](#) that Senate Democrat leadership had given the green light for a mark-up to take place (“the signal has been given to me: we're good to go”), and said that he expected to begin work on a budget resolution “within weeks.”

April 26 – [Committee Republicans ask](#) Conrad to conduct that mark-up in a transparent fashion, post resolution online in advance.

May 3 – [Conrad unveils](#) budget proposal to Democrat colleagues, informs Republicans they should expect markup the following week.

May 5 – [Republicans send](#) second letter stressing the need for an open process.

May 6 – [Conrad postpones](#) budget markup, citing “continuing discussions.”

May 9 – [President Obama announces](#) a White House meetings with Senators to discuss deficit reduction. For scheduling reasons, these meetings effectively prevent any markup from taking place that week.

May 10 – [The Hill reports](#) that the Democrats’ budget proposal will contain a 1:1 ratio of savings to tax increases.

May 11 – [CQ reports](#) that the tenuous agreement succumbed to pressure from Sen. Bernie Sanders to change the balance towards even more tax increases relative to spending cuts. (Sanders addressed this in [an interview on ABC News](#).)

May 17 – [Conrad says](#) he has no immediate plans to markup a budget.

May 19 – [Work on a budget further delayed](#) in deference to the talks led by Vice President Biden. That same day, [Majority Leader Reid says](#) it would be “foolish” for Senate Democrats to produce a budget.

May 23 – [Sen. Schumer argues](#) that Democrat alternatives to the Ryan budget are “not the point.” Entire [GOP Conference asks](#) Reid to stop blocking action on a Senate budget resolution. [Sessions announces](#) he will force vote on recess if Democrats attempt to adjourn without completing budget work.

May 26 – [GOP Senators join](#) Sessions, ask Reid not to break for Memorial Day Recess unless Senate Democrats bring forward a budget so the Senate can fulfill its duty. [Sessions responds](#) to Reid’s decision to hold ‘pro forma’ sessions to spare Democrat Senators from voting to adjourn.

May 28 – [New York Times editorial board](#) says Republicans have a point: “the Senate’s record is dismaying.”

May 31 – [Dana Milbank calls](#) the Democrat Senate’s failure to pass a budget in what was then 762 days “a new standard for dereliction of duty.”

June 7 – [Senate Democrats become anxious](#) about their party’s lack of a budget plan. Sens. Feinstein, Manchin, Pryor, Lieberman, and Reed express their concerns.

June 13 – [Former DNC Chairman Tim Kaine calls](#) lack of Senate Democrat budget a “major problem.” [Majority Leader Reid says](#) budget issues “have no bearing on what I think is important for the country today.”

June 16 – [It is reported](#) that Democrats are once again crafting a budget plan in closed-door meetings with at least \$2 trillion in tax hikes.

June 29 – [Sessions renews call](#) for Senate to remain in town to deal with its budget and debt ceiling work. [Democrats again claim](#) they have reached an internal agreement on a budget resolution, although Conrad “provided few details.”

June 30 – [Reid cancels](#) recess, citing unspecified “work to do.” [Sessions reiterates](#) request to Conrad that public and the Budget Committee have 72 hours to review any proposal before the Committee meets to mark it up.

July 6 – [Conrad schedules a briefing](#) for Democrat Caucus on latest version of his budget plan, acknowledges that “some colleagues could object at the last minute when they see his latest details on paper.” No Committee activity currently planned.